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Contact: John Asher
Vice President, Racing Communications
Churchill Downs Racetrack
John.Asher@KyDerby.com
(502) 636-4586 (office)
(502) 494-3626 (mobile)

144th KENTUCKY DERBY, KENTUCKY OAKS TOP CHURCHILL DOWNS' \$8.84 MILLION SPRING MEET STAKES SCHEDULE

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Friday, March 23, 2018) – The 144th renewals of the \$2 million-guaranteed **Kentucky Derby Presented by Woodford Reserve (Grade I)** and the \$1 million-guaranteed **Longines Kentucky Oaks (GI)** headline a strong roster of 32 stakes races with total purses of \$8.84 million scheduled for Churchill Downs Racetrack's April 28-June 30 Spring Meet.

The schedule is headlined by a spectacular Kentucky Derby Day on Saturday, May 5 that features seven graded stakes races – including three Grade I events – with total stakes purses of \$4.2 million. The Kentucky Oaks Day program one day earlier features six graded stakes with total stakes purses of \$2.35 million. Another highlight is the “Downs After Dark” nighttime program on Saturday, June 16, featuring five graded stakes, topped by the 37th running of the \$500,000 **Stephen Foster Handicap (GI)**, with total stakes purses of \$1.1 million.

The Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks are among six Grade I races on the Spring Meet schedule that also features seven Grade II events, 10 Grade III contests, one listed \$100,000 event, two additional \$100,000 stakes and six overnight stakes races that offer purses of \$65,000-added. The Kentucky Derby, Kentucky Oaks and Stephen Foster Handicap programs are among seven racing days that will feature two or more stakes contests. Alongside the Derby, Oaks and Stephen Foster Handicap, Grade I events set for the 2018 meet are the \$500,000 **Old Forester Turf Classic** and \$300,000 **Humana Distaff** on Derby Day and the Oaks Day renewal of the \$350,000 **La Troienne**.

Four events on the Spring Meet schedule will benefit from individual purse increases of \$50,000. Those races are the \$300,000 **Pat Day Mile Presented by LG&E and KU (GIII)** on Derby Day and the Oaks Day renewals of the \$350,000 **La Troienne**, the \$200,000 **Edgewood Presented by Forcht Bank (GIII)** and the \$200,000 **Twin Spires Turf Sprint (GIII)**.

Along with the running of the Kentucky Derby, America's greatest race and the nation's oldest continuously-held sports event, a trio of Grade I events on the Derby Day racing program includes the 32nd running of the **Old Forester Turf Classic** (formerly known as the **Woodford Reserve Turf Classic** from 2000-17) for 4-year-olds and up at 1 1/8 miles on the grass; the 32nd renewal of the **Humana Distaff**, a seven-furlong race for fillies and mares ages 4 and up. Completing the spectacular roster of seven Derby Day graded stakes events will be the \$500,000 **Churchill Downs (GII)** for 4-year-olds and up at seven furlongs; the \$300,000 **Longines Distaff Turf Mile (GII)** for fillies and mares 4-year-olds and up at one mile on turf; the **Pat Day Mile** for 3-year-olds at one mile on the main track; and the \$300,000 **American Turf Presented by Ram Trucks (GIII)** for 3-year-olds at 1 1/16 miles on the Matt Winn Turf Course.

The 2017 Kentucky Derby was won by **MeB Racing, Brooklyn Boyz, Theresa Viola, St Elias, Siena Farm** and **West Point Thoroughbreds' Always Dreaming**, while **Gunpowder Farms LLC's Divisidero** earned his second consecutive victory in the Turf Classic. **Juddmonte Farms'** homebred **Paulassilverlining** won the Humana Distaff.

The six stakes races on the Friday, May 4 Kentucky Oaks Day program are headed by the Oaks, America's premier race for 3-year-old fillies, which will be run at 1 1/8 miles on the main track, and the **La Troienne (GI)**, a 1 1/16-mile race for fillies and mares ages 4 and up. The Oaks Day schedule also features the \$400,000 **Alysheba (GII)** for 4-year-olds and up at 1 1/16 miles; the \$200,000 **Eight Belles Presented by Kentucky Trailer (GII)** for 3-year-old fillies at seven furlongs; the **Edgewood (GIII)** for 3-year-old fillies at 1 1/16 miles on turf; and the **Twin Spires Turf Sprint (GIII)** for 3-year-olds and up at five furlongs on turf.

China Horse Club International Ltd. and **Clearsky Farm's Abel Tasman** rallied from last in a field of 14 to win the 2017 Kentucky Oaks, while **Maggi Moss' Big World** took the **La Troienne**.

The Stephen Foster Handicap, a 1 1/8-mile event for 3-year-olds and up, is the main even on the June 16 night racing program the features five stakes contests. Joining the Grade I headliner will be the \$200,000 **Fleur de Lis Handicap** (GII) for fillies and mares ages 3 and up at 1 1/8 miles; the \$200,000 **Wise Dan** (GII) for 3-year-olds and up at 1 1/16 miles on turf; the \$100,000 **Matt Winn** (GIII) for 3-year-olds at 1 1/16 miles; and the \$100,000 **Regret** (GIII) for 3-year-old fillies at 1 1/16 miles on the turf.

The Stephen Foster was won last year by **Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC** and **Three Chimneys Farm LLC's Gun Runner**, who would go on to win the Breeders' Cup Classic (GI) and Eclipse Awards for Horse of the Year and the Champion Older Male of 2017.

Other multiple stakes programs include the Kentucky Derby Week **Thurby** program on Thursday, May 3 that includes the \$100,000 **Kentucky Juvenile** for 2-year-olds at five furlongs and the **Opening Verse Overnight Stakes** for 3-year-olds and one mile on turf; the Saturday, May 26 card topped by the \$100,000 **Winning Colors** (GIII) for fillies and mares 3 and up at six furlongs and the **Keertana Overnight Stakes** for fillies and mares 3 and up at 1 1/2 miles on turf; the Saturday, June 2 "Downs After Dark" program topped by the \$100,000 **Aristides** (GIII) for 3-year-olds and up at six furlongs and the **Mighty Beau Overnight Stakes** for 3-year-olds and up at five furlongs on turf; and the Saturday, June 30 closing day program with a trio of stakes races led by the \$100,000 **Bashford Manor** (GIII) for 2-year-olds at six furlongs, the \$100,000 **Debutante** (Listed) for 2-year-old fillies at six furlongs, and the Kelly's Landing Overnight Stakes for 3-year-olds and up at seven furlongs.

The Spring Meet stakes schedule kicks off under the lights during the Opening Night celebration on Saturday, April 28. The night's racing program will be highlighted by the \$100,000 **William Walker**, a race for 3-year-olds named for the pioneering African-American jockey and Kentucky Derby winner which will be run for the fourth time. The William Walker is the only race on the Spring Meet schedule that will undergo a change in racing surface or distance. The race will now be run on the turf at five furlongs after being run on the main track at six furlongs in its first three renewals.

Other graded stakes contests on the schedule include the \$100,000 **Louisville Handicap** (GIII) for 3-year-olds and up at 1 1/2 miles on turf on May 19, and the **Old Forester Mint Julep Handicap** (GIII), a 1 1/16-mile turf race for fillies and mares 3 and up on June 9. Two additional overnight stakes races complete the schedule: the May 12 **Unbridled Sydney** for fillies and mares 3 and up at five furlongs on turf, and the June 23 **Roxelana**, for fillies and mares 3 and up at six furlongs on the main track.

Churchill Downs, the world's most legendary racetrack, has conducted Thoroughbred racing and presented America's greatest race, the Kentucky Derby, continuously since 1875. Located in Louisville, the flagship racetrack of Churchill Downs Incorporated (NASDAQ: CHDN) offers year-round simulcast wagering at the historic track. Churchill Downs will conduct the 144th running of the Kentucky Derby Presented by Woodford Reserve on May 5, 2018. The track's 2018 Spring Meet is scheduled for April 28-June 30. An eight-time host to the Breeders' Cup World Championships, Churchill Downs will again be the site of that event on Nov. 2-3, 2018. Information is available at www.ChurchillDowns.com.

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CHURCHILL DOWNS 2018 SPRING MEET STAKES SCHEDULE

DATE	RACE	SEX	AGE	DIST.	SURFACE
Sat., 4/28	OPENING NIGHT "DOWNS AFTER DARK"				
	\$100,000 William Walker		3 YO	5 F	Turf
Thu., 5/3	THURBY				
	\$100,000 Kentucky Juvenile		2 YO	5 F	Dirt
	\$65,000-added Opening Verse Overnight Stakes		3 & Up	1 M	Turf
Fri., 5/4	KENTUCKY OAKS DAY				
	\$1 million Longines Kentucky Oaks (GI)	Fillies	3 YO	1 1/8 M	Dirt
	\$350,000 La Troienne (GI)	F & M	4 & Up	1 1/16 M	Dirt
	\$400,000 Alysheba (GII)		4 & Up	1 1/16 M	Dirt
	\$200,000 Eight Belles Presented by Kentucky Trailer (GII)	Fillies	3 YO	7 F	Dirt
	\$200,000 Edgewood Presented by Forcht Bank (GIII)	Fillies	3 YO	1 1/16 M	Turf
	\$200,000 Twin Spires Turf Sprint (GIII)		3 & Up	5 F	Turf
Sat., 5/5	KENTUCKY DERBY DAY				
	\$2 million Kentucky Derby Presented by Woodford Reserve (GI)		3 YO	1 ¼ M	Dirt
	\$500,000 Churchill Downs (GII)		4 & Up	7 F	Dirt
	\$500,000 Old Forester Turf Classic (GI)		4 & Up	1 1/8 M	Turf
	\$300,000 Humana Distaff (GI)	F & M	4 & Up	7 F	Dirt
	\$300,000 Longines Churchill Distaff Turf Mile (GII)	F & M	4 & Up	1 M	Turf
	\$300,000 American Turf Presented by Ram Trucks (GII)		3 YO	1 1/16 M	Turf
	\$300,000 Pat Day Mile Presented by LG&E and KU (GIII)		3 YO	1 M	Dirt
Sat., 5/12	\$65,000-added Unbridled Sydney Overnight Stakes	F & M	3 & Up	5 F	Turf
Sat., 5/19	\$100,000 Louisville Handicap (GIII)		3 & Up	1 ½ M	Turf
Sat., 5/26	\$100,000 Winning Colors (GIII)	F & M	3 & Up	6 F	Dirt
	\$65,000-added Keertana Overnight Stakes	F & M	3 & Up	1 ½ M	Turf
Sat., 6/2	"DOWNS AFTER DARK"				
	\$100,000 Aristides (GIII)		3 & Up	6 F	Dirt
	\$65,000-added Mighty Beau Overnight Stakes		3 & Up	5 F	Turf
Sat., 6/9	\$100,000 Old Forester Mint Julep Handicap (GIII)	F & M	3 & Up	1 1/16 M	Turf
Sat., 6/16	STEPHEN FOSTER HANDICAP "DOWNS AFTER DARK"				
	\$500,000 Stephen Foster Handicap (GI)		3 & Up	1 1/8 M	Dirt
	\$200,000 Fleur de Lis Handicap (GII)	F & M	3 & Up	1 1/8 M	Dirt
	\$200,000 Wise Dan (GII)		3 & Up	1 1/16 M	Turf
	\$100,000 Matt Winn (GIII)		3 YO	1 1/16 M	Dirt
	\$100,000 Regret (GIII)	Fillies	3 YO	1 1/8 M	Turf
Sat., 6/23	\$65,000-added Roxelana Overnight Stakes	F & M	3 & Up	6 F	Dirt
Sat., 6/30	CLOSING DAY				
	\$100,000 Bashford Manor (GIII)		2 YO	6 F	Dirt
	\$100,000 Debutante (Listed)	Fillies	2 YO	6 F	Dirt
	\$65,000-added Kelly's Landing Overnight Stakes		3 & Up	7 F	Dirt

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